wherever advantageous, on considerations of time schedule and economic viability, certain chemicals, hardware, components and parts are imported on a commercial basis, and launch services procured. There is no external financial assistance for the programme.

Low Central Investment in Kerala

2476. SHRI THENNALA BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central investment in Kerala is very low as compared to other States;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) what is the mode of central investment in States in various sectors;

(d) the total Central investment in States, State-wise; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to change the present mode of selection of investment in the near future and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (d) Central investment is made for the country as a whole keeping the National priorities in view. It is neither planned nor accounted state-wise.

(e) Keeping in view the national priority, the proposal of Government of Kerala in this regard, as and when received will be considered on merit.

Power Rates of Private Companies

2477. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of power rates contemplated under the power purchaseagreements signed with different private companies who have undertaken to set up power plants in different States and the power rates to be charged from consumers of various categories;

(b) the details of power generating capacity to be installed and the nature of fuel to be used by each firm; and

(c) the stage of Central Government clearance of the respective projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) to (c) The power purchase agreement (PPA) is a contract between the State Electricity Board (SEBs) and the independent power producers (IPPs) and usually covers the modalities for purchase/sale of power negotiated between the two parties. The power rates to be charged from various categories of consumers are fixed by the State Government/State Electricity Boards.

The Government have only stipulated certain ceiling parameters/norms for fixation of tariff vide its notification dated 30.3.1992 within which the States have to negotiate the tariff with IPPs.

As per information available 23 PPAs have been negotiated between IPPs and SEBs, the details of which are in the statement.